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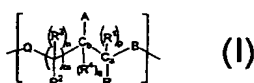
3 September 1999 (03.09.1999) **EP**(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SCHOOL**  
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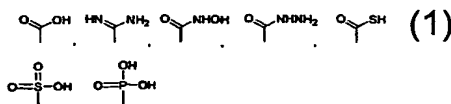
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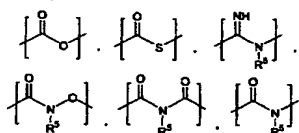
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(54) Title: **DEGRADABLE POLYMERS**

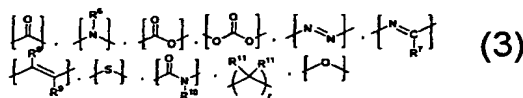
(I)



(1)



(2)



(3)

(57) Abstract: A polymer comprising: a polymeric backbone comprising at least one unit having the structure (I), wherein R-R<sup>4</sup> comprise groups selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> cycloalkyl or any of the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> cycloalkyl substituted, within the carbon chain or appended thereto, with one or more heteroatoms; R and R<sup>2</sup> or R and R<sup>4</sup> or R and R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> may be joined so that with the carbon atom(s) to which they are attached they together form a saturated, partially unsaturated or unsaturated ring system respectively, may have a pendent group which may incorporate a linker unit, (for example a peptide linkage) or a unit having the structure (I); A comprises a proton donating moiety selected from the group consisting of formula (1). B comprises a hydrolytically labile group and is selected from the group consisting of formula (2), wherein each R<sup>5</sup> is individually selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> cycloalkyl; wherein groups A and B are in a cis-configuration about bond C<sub>a</sub>-C<sub>b</sub>; m is an integer of 0 to 100, n, p and q are each an integer of 0 or 1; Q comprises 1 or more structures selected from the group consisting of formula (3) wherein R<sup>6</sup>-R<sup>11</sup> are individually selected from the same group as defined for group R above and r is an integer between 1 and 5000, preferably 1 to 10, most preferably 1 to 6; methods for the production, and uses thereof.